

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 761

By McNally

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to include the City of Oak Ridge in all considerations of The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act.

WHEREAS, Public Law 108-340, “The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act,” directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Energy, to conduct a Special Resource Study (SRS) on the preservation and interpretation of historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, the three major sites are the Los Alamos National Laboratory and town site in New Mexico, the Hanford Site in Washington, and the Oak Ridge Reservation in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service released the Draft Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment on the Manhattan Project Sites in November of 2009. It recommends an option designated “Alternative E,” which provides for the *Manhattan Project National Historical Park* congressional designation be given only to a site in the Los Alamos, New Mexico area; and

WHEREAS, the Draft SRS excludes the key Manhattan Project sites of Oak Ridge and Hanford from the option designated “Alternative E”; and

WHEREAS, a panel of experts convened by the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation deem the Manhattan Project as the “single most significant event of the Twentieth Century”; and

WHEREAS, many beneficial technologies including nuclear medicine and nuclear energy have been developed from Manhattan-Project-era research conducted in Oak Ridge and the other sites; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Project was managed from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, with roughly sixty percent of Manhattan Project resources spent on facilities in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, with three of the Manhattan Project's "Signature Facilities" located in Oak Ridge, there is no doubt regarding the significance of Oak Ridge to interpreting the scale and importance of the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, because of its unique heritage associated with the Manhattan Project, the City of Oak Ridge received the *Preserve America Community* designation in 2006, a designation developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Department of the Interior, and other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is seeking comments on the Draft SRS; and

WHEREAS, because of Oak Ridge's unique history, and because assets of historical significance are located within the corporate limits of the City of Oak Ridge, it is fitting that this body urge the inclusion of Oak Ridge in any national park commemorating the Manhattan Project; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the members of Congress to ensure the inclusion of Oak Ridge in any Draft Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment on the Manhattan Project Sites and that a new national park unit be considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly strongly urges each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to utilize the full measure of his or her influence to effect the passage of federal legislation providing for such reforms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.